

Sunday, Mar. 7, 1943

Dear Sir:

Due to the recent ruling of the O.D.T., which stated, "PRIVATE OWNED BUSES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO OPERATE AFTER MAR. 15, 1943", I was appointed by President Tom Wilson to represent the N.N.L., in an effort to find out how this order affected the Clubs of Negro Organized Baseball.

I found the situation more serious than had been anticipated. This became graver when Mr. Griffith, of the Washington A.L., Club told me he had been refused permission to use his privately owned Bus, formerly used by the Charlotte, N. C. Baseball Club, to transport his Club during the training period to play the various Army Camp Teams near Wash., D.C. This despite the fact that Washington American League Club was playing these games gratis.

I wired Dr. J. B. Martin, of Chicago, to meet me in Wash., D.C. to attend a conference which Mr. Griffith arranged for us with Mr. Eastman and his assistants.

Mr. Richardson, who has charge of Buses was apparently very opposed to any privately owned Buses to operate except for Clinics and Hospitals. We cited many reasons why we should operate, and the difficulties we faced in attempting to operate without using our privately owned Buses for Transportation. Summing this up, we told him it was almost impossible to operate without Buses.

Mr. Eastman was very liberal in our case, and frequently took our side of the question in talking to Mr. Richardson. Mr. Richardson's argument was not based so much on the use of gas, as it was on the need of the Government to obtain all privately owned Buses for Industry and the Army, as he claimed they were not making any more Buses, and he had already confiscated over 600 Buses from School Athletic Associations and Musical Organizations.

Mr. Eastman then asked many pertinent questions concerning the possibility of saving wear and tear on the Bus, by using it from April 15th, to Sept. 15th, and the possibility of each club operating in 1943 with the same tires as used in 1942. Also, if we would co-operate in using day Coaches of Trains when possible. WE AGREED TO EVERYTHING.

Mr. Eastman wishes the following information.

1. The present Mileage on your Bus.
2. The condition of your Tires.
3. The assurance that you will cut your 1942 mileage in half in 1943 if permitted to use your Bus.



I must have these answeres at once. You must answer the second question so it will appear as though you will not need new tires or re-treads for a long time. I think there is a probability that we will be allowed to use our Busses, but the members of the O. D. T., who were present, positively told us they would not give us a free ticket to operate as in the past, and only considered our case because they did not wish to cause our League to stop operating.

Kindly send this information AIR MAIL, SPECIAL DELIVERY to me at once on your Club Stationery to 312 E. 13th Ave., Homestead, Pa., so I can forward your answers to Mr. Eastman.

Yours,

Cum Posey,

Sec'y., N. N. League

PS

I must have these answers in Mr. Eastman's Office not later than Sat., Mar. 14th.